

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 25-32 will be pending in the instant application. In an Office Action dated June 22, 2004, claims 1-19 and 22-31 were rejected, and claims 20 and 21 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1- 24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 32 has been added to claim the compound identified in Example 208 in the specification as originally filed. Claims 25, 26, and 30 have been amended to update dependency in light of the cancellation of other claims. No new matter has been added.

The Present Invention

The present invention relates to phenylalanine enamide derivatives, to compositions containing them, to processes for their preparation, and to their use in medicine.

Comments

Claim 32, the only remaining independent claim in the present application, has been added to claim the compound described in Example 208 of the specification as originally filed. Claims 25-31, which depend from claim 32, are similarly altered in scope.

As a result of ongoing research, Applicants have developed an increased interest in the compound of Example 208 and a heightened recognition of its importance as a pharmaceutical treatment. Because of this increased interest, Applicants wish to streamline the patent prosecution process in an effort to gain speedy allowance of claims directed to that compound. The claim amendments reflected in the above listing of claims are intended to further that goal, and do not in any way reflect Applicants' position regarding the merit, or lack thereof, of any of the rejections made in the pending Office Action.

Because Applicants continue to believe that they are entitled to the entire subject matter described in the pending application and wish to pursue patent claims directed to the remaining subject matter, a continuation application is being filed concurrently with this response. That continuation application contains claims directed to the subject matter

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removed from the pending claims as a result of the cancellation and/or amendment of claims herein.

Applicants believe that, in light of the present claim amendments and/or cancellations, the claim rejections made in the Office Action are now rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of those rejections and allowance of claims 25-32.

Customer Number

An executed Assignee Power of Attorney was filed on December 3, 2002 (copy enclosed), but does not appear to have been associated with the correct customer number. Therefore, please note that the pending application, Serial No. 10/081,072, filed February 22, 2002, should be associated with Woodcock Washburn's Customer Number of 23377.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks constitute a complete response to the outstanding Office Action and therefore respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. Should any issues remain that are not resolved by this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 215-557-5966.

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Amy E. Carr-Trexler
Amy Carr-Trexler
Registration No. 51,531

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439